

## Vince

Vince Marbell has been offered a new senior job as head of the languages department at a school in Doncaster.

Since securing the position as Head of Languages Vince had begun spending every Sunday with his parents and younger sister Yvonne. They would attend the same service at the Baptist church and then all go back home for Sunday lunch; his friend Gary would sometimes come over as well, sometimes not. Vince' parents had asked Vince how he would cope in Doncaster without his best mate seen as they seemed to be bonded at the hip, going clubbing together and holidaying together. Vince explained that due to financial reasons Gary was going to move to Doncaster too, and try and find a job there as London was too expensive for Gary to find a flat on his own, plus he was beginning to hate the area as more and more Eastern Europeans were moving in.

Vince's plans to relocate from London to Doncaster became fraught with difficult events, which made his move difficult.

In the end Vince moved to Doncaster on his own. His new start turned out to be a struggle. He could barely afford his new mortgage and trips to the night clubs were rare, however when he did these proved to be drunken nights of debauchery. He loved the buzz of losing himself in the music and often finding someone to take home. The new pressures of a senior job were hard to bear without someone close with whom he could share his mistakes, joys and strategies for making an impression with his new employers.

Before the end of the first term in his new job Vince was beginning to feel low and this was exacerbated by an allegation by a 14 year old pupil who said that that whilst the class were discussing French word for 'cycling shorts' he had inappropriately touched him. Vince was suspended whilst an investigation took place. He was frightened despite his innocence and was lonely and bored. His weeks on suspension were broken up by visits to church, which were a mix between being spiritually uplifting; reminding him of how much he missed his family. The believers at church tried to link him up with women in the congregation, whom he could date.

The investigation at the school found in Vince's favour but by this time (2 weeks before the end of the Autumn term before the Christmas break) he had become so depressed that he felt no joy at the outcome and was unable to return to work as his doctor signed him off, suggesting he was

depressed. Trying to overcome his depression as best he could, Vince took to clubbing every weekend, all weekend. After a while, Vince became anxious about going out. He began eating erratically, lost weight, cut off communication with family and friends and slept all day.

One day a man with green eyes turned up at Vince's door. Vince spoke through a small gap, as he kept the door ajar but fastened with a security chain. The man kicked in the door and came in and raped him, then fled, taking his £6000 Rolex watch.

Vince eventually went to church to try and find peace. This Sunday he sobbed and sobbed, rocking backwards and forward saying "*I can't do this anymore*". After three hours of increasingly distressed sobbing and crying the people from the church agreed that he needed help. They noticed bandaging around his left forearm with signs of blood leakage. The church folk asked Vince if there was anyone who could take care of him, to which he said little other than "screeching, "no!". Being aware of his previous attempts at suicide they called the GP out of hours service, who said that a mental health specialist would attend. The church folk told Vince that they were going to keep him in the office until help arrived. Vince knew what this meant because his sister Yvonne was a mental health social worker. He did not want to go to a psychiatric hospital. Losing himself in the moment Vince began trying to escape before it was too late. He began using the most vulgar swear words he could think of as he battled with the church folk, punching and biting them in his attempt to escape. He never made it. A social worker arrived and soon two doctors did also, and Vince was assessed under the Mental Health Act.

**Task:**

**What assumptions and biases may have contributed to the request for a mental health assessment?**

**How would you respond, as someone who challenges bias?**